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December 5, 2002

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's sunset review date be extended to September 30, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The Arts Commission (Commission) was established in 1947 and has been continued by Board order pursuant to Chapter 3.38 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Commission recommends to the Board the persons, firms or corporations with whom or which the County should, pursuant to Government Code Section 25562, contract to provide artistic performances within the County. This includes, but is not limited to, operas, symphonies, band concerts and other instrumental concerts, historical or commemorative pageants, choral concerts, plays or related presentations (with or without music), ballet, dance, recitals, exhibitions, and readings.

The Commission has 15 members. Each member serves a four-year term at the pleasure of the Board. Members receive \$20 for each general meeting attended, not to exceed two meetings in any one calendar month, and \$20 for each Executive Committee meeting attended, not to exceed two meetings in any one calendar month. In addition, members receive reimbursement for necessary travel expenses incurred in carrying out Commission duties.

JUSTIFICATION

The Arts Commission seeks to foster excellence, diversity, vitality and accessibility of the arts in the County. The Commission plays a leadership role in cultural services for the County by providing information and resources to the community, artists, arts organizations and municipalities.

The Commission's major programs include the following:

Community Programs

- Annual Holiday Celebration: The Commission produces an Annual Holiday Celebration in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion that averages 6,000 attendees with several hundred thousand more watching the live broadcast or rebroadcast from their homes.
- Los Angeles Arts Open House: The Commission involved over 75,000 people in arts experiences at more than 150 admission-free locations in Los Angeles County communities.
- Musicians Trust Fund: The Commission arranges more than 100 free performances at County parks, libraries, probation camps, senior centers, and other community sites through the Musicians Trust Fund program.
- Summer Nights at the Ford: Over 35,000 patrons per year attend the multi-disciplinary arts festival at the outdoor John Anson Ford Amphitheatre.

Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program

- Since its inception in 2000, more than 100 arts organizations and 400 undergraduate college students have participated in the program. The Getty provides approximately \$90,000 as in-kind support for the program through a series of educational events and activities that they provide for the interns.

Organization Grant Program

- Grant programs to arts organizations now total \$2,852,000 annually to fund more than 200 organizations. Commissioners recommend funding allocations to the Board for approval.

Arts Education

- Arts in Focus: The Los Angeles County-wide Arts Education Survey, which is the largest and most detailed study of arts education in the County, contributed to the development of the Arts Education Hub and the Arts For All.
- Los Angeles County Blueprint for Arts Education, a strategic plan to include arts education as a core component in the County's 82 school districts. The Commission coordinated monthly roundtables for artists, educators and administrators to provide a County-wide forum for arts education issues and support.

Folk and Traditional Arts

- Three workshops assisting more than 200 individuals were provided during the first year of the program's inception. One-on-one consultations with individual artists and organizations resulted in increased grant dollars brought into the County through outside funding.
- The Commission created the Los Angeles County Folk Arts (LAFolkArts) listserv, an on-line network for the folk and traditional arts community of greater Los Angeles, which currently has over 200 subscribers.

Constituent Communication

- The Commission provides support for Los Angeles Culture Net (LACN), a listserv that hosts more than 800 participants from throughout the County and is involved in ongoing art and culture discussions. In addition, the Commission maintains a database with close to 2,500 names of organizations and interested individuals to which it sends information about its programs.

In the coming period, the Commission's goals include the following:

- Create an hour-long highlight version of the Holiday Celebration that will be broadcast nationally on PBS and its affiliate stations.
- Launch an interactive, on-line arts education resource directory for teachers.
- Develop and implement a County-wide strategic plan to advance K-12 arts education.
- Implement an on-line grant application system.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:RD

Attachments

c: Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services
Arlene "Phoebe" Beasley, President, Arts Commission
Ms. Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Arts Commission

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is broader than, but encompasses, functions of the Commission as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Commission. **CONCUR**

Section 1. Relevancy. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Arts Commission provides a leadership role in cultural services for the County by providing information and resources to the community, artists, arts organizations and municipalities. The Commission fosters the Board's support for cross cultural exchanges and the stimulation of our economy through the arts industry. **RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is required to meet at least 12 times each year. During the past three years, an average of 12 meetings per year were held, with an average attendance of ten Commissioners per meeting. **SATISFACTORY**

Section 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the review period, the Commission's accomplishments include:

- Recommended to the Board, contracts and grants totaling over \$2.8 million to more than 200 non-profit arts organizations.
- Recommended to the Board, the funding of more than 100 free performances in County parks, libraries and other community sites.
- Established the Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program in 2000, in which more than 100 arts organizations and 400 undergraduate students have participated. **SIGNIFICANT**

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals relevant within the current County environment?)

In the coming period, the Commission's goals include:

- Create an hour-long highlight version of the Holiday Celebration that will be broadcast nationally on PBS and its affiliate stations.
- Launch an interactive, on-line arts education resource directory for teachers.
- Develop and implement a County-wide strategic plan to advance K-12 arts education.
- Implement a training program for artists in the Visual and Performing Arts standards.
- Implement an on-line grant application system.
- Create supporting programs to further develop the leadership capacity of non-profit arts organizations. **RELEVANT**

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

The adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2001-02 was \$4,724,000 with a net County cost of \$4,177,000. The adopted budget continues support for cultural services provided to County residents, including;

- The Annual Holiday Celebration
- Free concerts at public sites
- Multi-disciplinary performing arts series at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
- The Arts Internship Program
- A free open house arts day
- Contracts for services with non-profit arts organizations
- Management assistance to non-profit arts organizations
- The implementation of new grants. **WARRANTED**

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE ARTS COMMISSION TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2008.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION ATTENDANCE RECORD

Commissioner	Nominated By	9/30/99	12/31/99	3/31/00	6/30/00	9/30/00	12/31/00	3/31/01	6/30/01	9/30/01	12/31/01	3/31/02	6/30/02	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter →		3	2	3	4	1	3	3	4	2	3	3	4	35	
Mr. Carlos Barron	First District	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	0	3	2	4	28	80%
Mr. Tomas J. Benitez	First District	2	2	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	19	54%
Ms. Adrienne A. Hall	First District	2	1	3	2	0	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	19	54%
Ms. Arlene "Phoebe" Beasley	Second District	3	1	3	4	1	3	3	4	2	3	3	4	34	97%
Ms. Rosalind Wyman	Second District	3	0	2	2	0	1	2	4	1	2	0	4	21	60%
Ms. Aurelia Brooks	Second District	1	2	2	3	0	3	2	3	1	3	2	2	24	69%
Ms. Hope Warschaw	Third District	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	4	0	2	3	3	27	77%
Ronald D. Rosen, Esq.	Third District	1	1	2	4	1	2	3	3	1	2	3	3	26	74%
Mrs. Judith A. Galperson	Third District	2	2	3	4	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	26	74%
Ms. Laurel Karabian	Fourth District	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	3	25	71%
Mr. Robert J. Hankins	Fourth District				3	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	3	15	56%
Mrs. Betty Haagen	Fourth District	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	3	11	31%
Ms. Olive M. "Ollie" Blanning	Fifth District								2	2	3	3	3	13	81%
Ms. Joyce Aimee	Fifth District	2	1	0	1	1	2	2						9	47%
Ms. Marjorie S. Lyte	Fifth District	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	4	2	1	3	3	28	80%
Ms. Alis Clausen	Fifth District	2	1	3	4	0	1	2	4	2	3	3	3	28	80%
Totals		26	19	30	40	10	25	32	46	18	31	32	44	353	
Average Attendance per Meeting →														10.1	